

**COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABLED
REGULAR MEETING**

JANUARY 5, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

William DeMaio
Tillie DeMaio
Jerilyn Nagel
Maureen Lynch
Susan Mazzocchi
Karen Brecher
Eunice Scharr

MEMBERS ABSENT

Diana Robino
Patricia Hanbury

STAFF

Dianne Stone
Eleanor Eichner
Gail Whitney

ALSO PRESENT

Myra Cohen
Charles Francolino

I. CALL TO ORDER

William DeMaio called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Myra Cohen reported that the State Legislators have been invited to the next Town Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 11th. If anyone has any questions they would like them to answer, they are to let the Town Manager know.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Karen Brecher made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 1, 2010, Tillie DeMaio seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 1, 2010 was unanimously approved with a 7-0 vote.

V. STAFF REPORT

Dianne reported that the Center was very busy during the month of December with many activities such as a cooking program, holiday cookie social, holiday gift card workshop, holiday party sponsored by Newington Health Care Center, and an ear wax clinic on December 16th. The book club met and they are reading Something's Missing by Matthew Dicks. The next caregiver program sponsored by CCCI will be held on January 11th at 6:30 PM. This is the third program in this series and will be about homecare services. The last program held on December 14th had 16 people in attendance.

January programs include a Wii bowling training session, Brain Fitness, Chronic Disease care, a balance program on January 20th focusing on obesity, falls, and diabetes. A Silver Sneakers program will begin; 20 to 30 chairs have been delivered for this program and HealthTrax will oversee it. The Town's Plan of Conservation for 2010-2030 has been distributed and shows that the older adult population will increase dramatically in Newington by the year 2030.

Dianne will be attending a meeting in Washington, D.C. in January of the National Institute of Senior Centers where the Assistant Secretary of Aging will be speaking. Dianne will be speaking on accreditation for senior centers and will be asking for direct funding for senior centers through the Federal government.

Susan asked about the renovations to the nurse's office and Dianne responded that the painting and crown molding are complete, and are waiting on new furniture.

The budget request has been submitted to the Town Manager with nothing new added and hoping to maintain what there is at the present time. There is a CIP request for a new roof, and the canopy.

VI. REPORT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MOTION: Tillie DeMaio made a motion to accept the Report of Human Services for the month of December, Eunice Scharr seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

VII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY

Diana was not in attendance. Dianne reported that Newington's Special Olympics program is one of the best programs in the state. Leslie Morgan will be stepping down from her coordinator position, and Karen Gallicchio will be stepping back as her assistant; however Nicole Nardi who presently runs the Center's Activity Group will become coordinator and Karen will assist her during this transition.

VIII. SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pat Hanbury was not in attendance. Dianne reported that the Committee met this morning and discussed programs and activities as mentioned at this evening's meeting.

IX. CLUB UPDATES

Charles Francolino reported that AARP 697 will hold a meeting in two weeks in a last attempt to gain new members and/or renew members. Last year there were 215 members; at the present time there are 149 members and the outlook is that they will not reach 200 members.

The Tax Aide program will begin on Thursday, February 3rd through Thursday, April 14th. Notices will be posted. Clients of all ages are accepted, however this program is generally geared to the 60+ generation.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Housing

New Samaritan is on track with an ambitious completion date of fall 2011. The general contractor brought a holiday cookie basket to the Senior Center. The application process for this housing has not begun yet, but it is for low income individuals age 62 and older.

B. Strategic Plan

Dianne reported that the Strategic Plan continues to move forward and new initiatives are being reviewed.

C. Transportation

Dianne asked the Commissioners about having Dial-A-Ride available for Commission meetings; this would be possible as long as there are at least four people registered for this service. Dianne reported on ITN which is a volunteer based transportation organization. At the present time changes are being made to their administration. West Hartford is using this service which charges \$4 for a ride, plus \$1 per mile. Volunteers receive twenty-five cents per mile. ITN would supplement Dial-A-Ride. The Senior Center would help solicit support for this program, along with recruiting volunteers.

D. Letter to Qwest

Dianne sent a letter to Qwest regarding handicap access to their facility, but has not received a response to date.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion on NCTV Channel 14 not being available to people who subscribe to AT&T; it is only available if people subscribe to Cox Communications. AT&T will be offering this service in the future, but no date has been established yet.

Maureen asked about obtaining college courses for Center patrons. Dianne responded that is one of the initiatives under Strategic Planning to offer lifelong learning programs.

XII. AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

The January agenda will remain the same for the February meeting.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Tillie DeMaio made a motion to adjourn, Karen Brecher seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was unanimously passed with a 7-0 vote at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Whitney, Commission Clerk